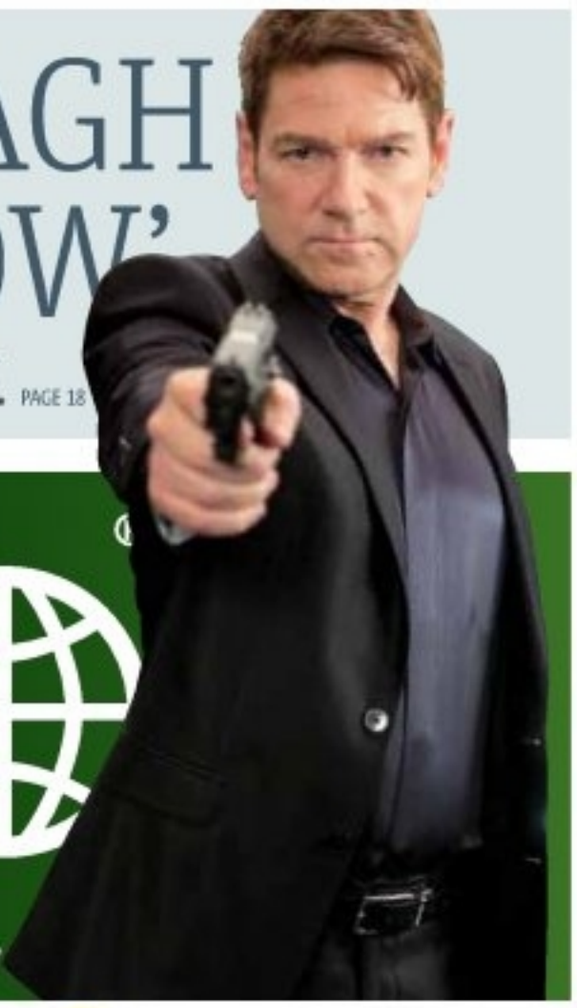
KENNETH BRANAGH IS IN THE 'SHADOW'

THE SHAKESPEAREAN ACTOR ENTERS NEW TURF. PAGE 18



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Hello, my name is David Oyelowo. You may not recognize that name or any of the faces in this image, but by the time this year is through you won't be able to remember a time when you didn't know who they were.

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PAGES 14, 23, 25

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1 NEWS

Bad checks cost the city $14 million: Controller

Unpaid. Over three years, millions of dollars in checks to the city bounced. A new report indicates that as little as half may be paid.

Between 2009 and 2012, the city missed out on $14 million in payments in which the checks bounced. City Controller Alan Butkovitz examined 83 bad checks from this period and found that only half of them were ever paid back.

"It's unfathomable that the city is leaving millions of dollars uncollected due to individuals writing bad checks," Butkovitz said at a press conference Thursday.

How bad checks evade the city

Step by step, no one stops bad checks.

- Bank returns bad check to agency; charged $6.
- Bad checks are forwarded to Bank Return Items Unit.
- All bad checks are entered into BRI system, assigned a BRI number.
- BRI sends "Demand for Payment" letter to taxpayer.
- After 30 days, bad checks are coded "off" and sent to agency for further collection attempts.

Quoted

"The BRI forwards things and just says, 'We're done with this.' Basically, they need to function as if it's 2014 and they're a business."

Butkovitz

By the numbers

13K

Bounced checks paid to city from 2009 to 2012

$14M

Value of these checks

A report from city Inspector General Amy Kurland in April 2013 identified this problem as resulting from a breakdown in communications among city agencies. Kurland's report also stated that the city had gotten back about $212,383 in bounced checks from 24 entities.

"That's 24 bad checks," Butkovitz said in response.

Butkovitz singled out the Bank Return Item Unit for causing the problem by failing to collect on these bad checks. He said they just send collection letters without enforcing them.

"They need to change the procedures and catch the 13,000 people who are paying bad checks," Butkovitz said. "The BRI forwards things and just says, 'We're done with this.' Basically, they need to function as if it's 2014 and they're a business."

The city defended its enforcement of bounced checks and revenue collections.

"The OIG [Office of the Inspector General] — in partnership with the Law, Revenue and other departments — has been working to aggressively recover money owed to the city as the result of bounced checks," responded Mayor Michael Nutter's press secretary Mark McDonald.

A December letter from Department of Revenue commissioner Clarena Tolson stated that new, stricter policies are being implemented to catch bad checks.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Giveaway

New year, new you

It's a new year and time for a new you! As part of Metro's New in the New Year series, we want to help you make it your best year yet. To help kick off your success, we're giving away a Fitbit activity tracker to one lucky reader. Like www.facebook.com/MetroPhilly on Facebook and enter for a chance to win from now until Jan. 26. Get moving!

Local tweet

"Ohhh that's right....we're off Monday #mlk"

Oh yeah, that's right, @BooG3R, it's just a day off. But do you know WHY you're off?

We'll take a box of Caramel deLites

Vashti, 7, on her first day as a Girl Scout, hands out cookies in front of the Shops at Liberty Place on Thursday as the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania kicked off their annual season of cookie sales. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Stop. Red-light cam coming to Northwest Philly intersection

Watch yourself in Northwest Philly. The Philadelphia Parking Authority will activate another red-light camera.

On Thursday, the PPA announced it will activate its newest camera at the intersection of Stenton and Ogontz avenues as Sunday night transitions into Monday morning. The site is where West Oak Lane, Mt. Airy and Germantown meet.

The cameras will go live at 12:01 a.m. Monday.

Red-light cameras monitor traffic and automatically photograph the license plates of vehicles that drive through an intersection after the stop light flicked red.

The first 45 days after installation is a grace period. Violators will receive warnings in the mail. The grace period ends at midnight on March 5.

After the grace period, violators face a $100 fine.

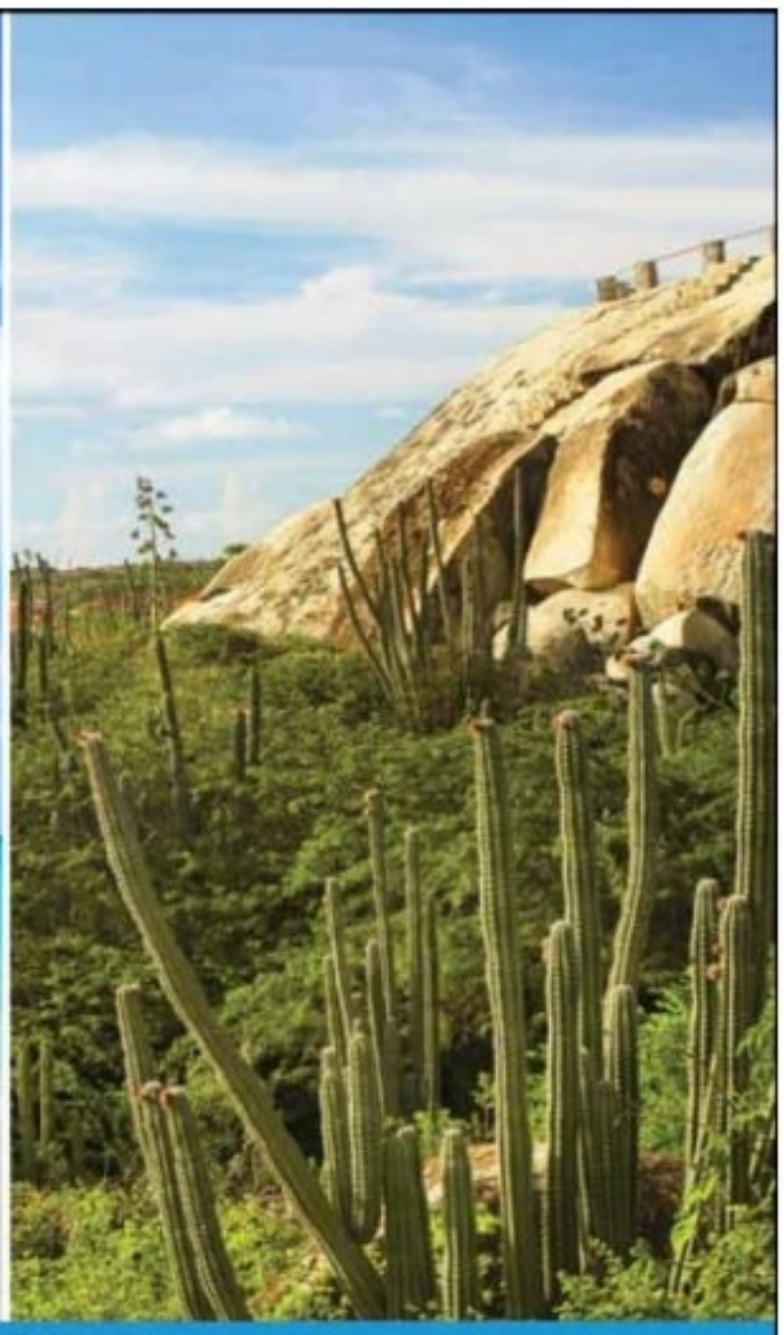
With this installation, the total number of red-light cameras in the city rises to 115. The PPA started installing red-light cameras in 2005. The program was recently extended until 2017. METRO

Shady

Thieves steal pricey sunglasses

Police are looking for two men who coolly scooped designer sunglasses into a bag at Sunglass Hut in the Shops at Liberty Place on Jan. 12. An employee tried to stop them but the thieves got away.

The total value of the loot, four Prada and four Dolce & Gabbana, was about $2,000, police said. METRO



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Free Library offers help with Obamacare

NEW in the new year

Insurance. There are two more months until the program's open enrollment ends.

A Pew Charitable Trusts study of the Free Library of Philadelphia found that an astonishing 34 percent of the library's visitors go there to access health care information.

Now, the Free Library has Certified Application Counselors ready, willing and able to guide members of the public through the Obamacare application process at Free Library branches across the city.

"We have 1,000 public-access computers," said Siobhan Reardon, president and director of the Free Library of Philadelphia. "We have a staff that's knowledgeable and willing.

"One of the first things Obama said about the Affordable Care Act was to encourage people to go to their libraries," Reardon continued.

There are 34 counselors now working for the Free Library at various branches. Applicants can sign up by scheduling an appointment or just dropping in to the Parkway Central Library.

"We can guide someone through the process," said Autumn McClintock, a counselor working at the Free Library.

This open enrollment period ends March 31. The next open enrollment period won't begin until October 2014.

Get enrolled

The Parkway Central Library will offer counseling services from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the following days:

- Jan. 24 and 27; Feb. 3, 14, 17 and 28; March 3, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 and 31.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Prison time

Armed robber gets 30 years

Hakeem Paris, 23, was sentenced to 30 years in prison Thursday for two armed robberies.

Paris robbed Bridesburg Pizza at gunpoint on May 10, 2010, and on May 23, 2010, attempted to rob a Wawa at Orthodox and Richmond streets.

Paris wore a rainbow-colored knit hat with fake dreadlocks during both robberies to avoid identification, but when police found Paris, the hat was on the floor of the car. METRO

Fought off

Woman swings bat at invaders

A disabled Northeast Philadelphia woman, 54, fought off two men who posed as water department workers Thursday with a bat, reports said.

Two men dressed in white jumpsuits rung her doorbell around 9:30 a.m. at the 1000 block of Granite Street. She opened the door and was punched in the face. She then grabbed the bat and swung. METRO

It's Super Fowl Sunday

Varga Bar chef/owner Evan Turney prepares his signature duck fat and pomegranate hot wings. Varga is hosting its fourth annual "Super Fowl" on Sunday where five local chefs will face off in a hot wings competition.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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Reward renewed to solve 44-year-old murder of cop

Cold case. Frederick Cione was killed in the line of duty, and his killer has never been brought to justice.

Officer Vincent Cione, nephew of slain PPD officer Frederick Cione, helps to announce the reward. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Jan. 30 will mark 44 years since officer Frederick Cione was murdered blocks from Temple University's campus.

And Jan. 30 will mark 44 years without an answer to the question of "Who did it?" Cione's murder is the only unsolved police killing in Philadelphia history.

The National Police Defense Foundation said on Thursday it still wants an answer.

The foundation put a $10,000 reward on the table for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for Cione's murder.

The city added $20,000 and the Fraternal Order of Police offered $10,000.

Cione, then a 25-year-old rookie cop, was gunned down on Jan. 30, 1970, on the 1700 block of Oxford Avenue. He pursued three men near 17th Street when one opened fire. The men were never apprehended, and no other suspects were identified or caught.

Cione's younger brother, Nick, also a former cop, stood with his sons Nick Jr. and Vincent, both sergeants, Thursday at the reward announcement.

The elder Nick Cione said to get an answer for his entire family would "be nice."

The chances of solving the case aren't high, officials have said. The murderer may not even be alive. But the elder Cione, now retired, said it would offer some closure.

"My mother and father, unfortunately, have passed," he said. "It would have been nice if it would have been solved while they were still alive because it would have meant a lot to them. But unfortunately, it didn't happen.

"[I'm] still hanging in there," he added, "and hoping I will see it before I pass on too."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Homicide Unit at 215-686-3334 or 215-686-3335.

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

In his honor

A mural honoring Frederick Cione at the Cione Rec Center sits at the corner of Lehigh and Aramingo avenues.

- Rewards have been offered before, including a $5,000 reward in 1976.

Lethal injection

Philly killer to be executed

The fate of a North Philadelphia man convicted of murdering a homicide witness in 2006 is sealed.

Gov. Tom Corbett on Thursday signed the execution warrant for Donte Thomas, who shot and killed Tyreese Gaymon in 2006.

Thomas, now 36, killed Gaymon on the corner of 15th and Thompson streets on Feb. 3, 2006, blocks from Temple University. Thomas walked in front of Gaymon and his three friends and shot him to death. The three friends identified Thomas as the shooter.

Thomas killed Gaymon for Kareem Glass, who was awaiting trial for the murder of Gaymon's cousin, Tyreek. Thomas is scheduled for execution by lethal injection on March 13.

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Nabbed. Now famous 'Swiss Cheese Pervert' behind bars: Police

Now he's saying "cheese" — for his mugshot.

Chris Pagano, 41, known internationally as the "Swiss Cheese Pervert," was arrested Thursday and charged with stalking, indecent exposure, harassment and open lewdness, police said.

The charges stem from three incidents, all around Frankford and Cottman avenues, all within the first week of 2014, where victims came forward to make reports to police.

Neighborhood leaders previously said they suspected Pagano was the Swiss Cheese Pervert, since reports began to circulate of a man asking women to masturbate him with a piece of Swiss cheese.

"We … actually knew before they [Philadelphia Magazine] went to his home," said Joseph DeFelice, of Mayfair, on Sunday.

Pagano reportedly harassed many women on online dating sites, asking for their participation in a Swiss cheese-related sex act.

"Cheese is what I started to use as a replacement for having sex with girls," he allegedly wrote to one woman.

SAM NEWHOUSE

On the lookout

- News of the Swiss Cheese predator's activities was made public last week on the Mayfair Town Watch Facebook page, when town watch members posted a photograph of a man who allegedly approached and harassed women around the neighborhood.

It's a dirty job, but someone's gotta do it, Philadelphia

Construction workers get down and dirty connecting water pipes to a new building at Front and Lombard streets in Queen Village. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

South Jersey

Two 7-Eleven stores robbed at nearly same time in area

Police are investigating the near-simultaneous robberies of two 7-Eleven stores in a South Jersey town early Thursday, according to multiple media reports.

The robberies happened at 7-Eleven stores in Mount Laurel about 1:45 a.m.

In one robbery, two armed men dressed in black held up the store at Ramblewood Shopping Center on Route 73. In the other, a lone gunman robbed the store on the 3000 block of Marne Highway, reports said.

No one was injured in either crime.

A clerk at a 7-Eleven in Pennsauken, N.J., was shot four times during a violent robbery last Friday, reports said. METRO

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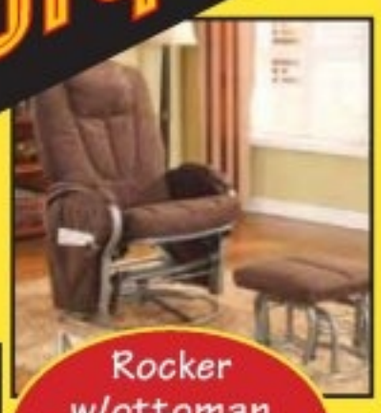

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ROLLING AND ACTION!

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

FOREMAN IS A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN.

CNN = POLITICS

Sound the trumpets, raise the bunting and book the bowling alley for a pizza party! The White House has proclaimed 2014 "a year of action." Gone is the timid "let's be friends" Barack Obama, and in his place is a tougher, more focused Leader of the Free World. He is promising new jobs, reinvigorated foreign policy initiatives, improved domestic programs and so much more.

To paraphrase Pedro in Napoleon Dynamite, it is as if President Obama is saying: "Stick with me, and all your wildest dreams will come true."

People are interpreting this in different ways. Some liberals hope this means the president will finally shove aside all those lily-livered members of Congress and deliver the change he promised those many years ago.

Quoted

I wonder if he is just taking a foolish risk. Slogans like this have a way going bad like a peach on a hot day.

Some conservatives fear he will lay waste to the Constitution by raking new power unto himself like one of those plastic hippos grabbing marbles in a kids' game.

I wonder if he is just taking a foolish risk. Slogans like this have a way going bad like a peach on a hot day.

For starters, he's been in office for five years. Calling this a "year of action," implies to some extent that so far he's just been warming up. Secondly, it raises expectations to a potentially dangerous level. Trust me, by mid-summer, if big results are not apparent, headlines will be screaming, "What Happened to the Year of Action?"

Personally, if I were coming up with a White House slogan, I would have gone with something like, "Hey, we're still trying!" or "Michelle's turning 50! You like her, right?" or "Can you believe Christie and that bridge mess?" It also says something that the White House didn't even announce the "year of action" until we were halfway through January. Clearly it is not the year of punctuality.

No, I suspect it would have been far wiser for the president to simply, quietly set about producing all these results rather than promising them. Then, 11 months from now, others could pile on the praise saying, "Wow! Wasn't that a year of action!"

Christie hires outside law firm in bridge probe

I knew nothing. Christie has adamantly denied being part of the apparent scheme.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said on Thursday that he hired a law firm to help his office as federal prosecutors probe whether U.S. law was broken when one of his aides ordered an apparent politically motivated traffic jam.

The governor's office said it had retained the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP to help with an internal review and to cooperate with an investigation announced last week by U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Paul Fishman.

The outside attorneys will bring a "third-party perspective to the situation, and they will be a valuable asset as we move forward," Christie spokesman Michael Drewniak said in the statement.

Gov. Christie tours the boardwalk fire with Deputy Chief of Staff Bridget Kelly. Kelly was fired over the bridge scandal. / GETTY IMAGES

RANDY MASTRO
GETTY IMAGES

Randy Mastro will lead the outside legal team. During the 1990s, Mastro served as a deputy mayor to another moderate Republican who would go on to have presidential aspirations: former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Christie, widely considered a top contender for the White House in 2016, said last week he would cooperate with the federal probe of the unexpected shutdown over four days in September of three local access lanes to the George Washington Bridge linking New Jersey and New York City.

The move caused massive traffic jams in Fort Lee, angering commuters and delaying school buses and ambulances. REUTERS

Sandy relief funds

$2M

Christie is also facing a review by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over whether his administration may have misused about $2 million in superstorm Sandy relief funds for an ad campaign that featured him and his family helping with cleanup.

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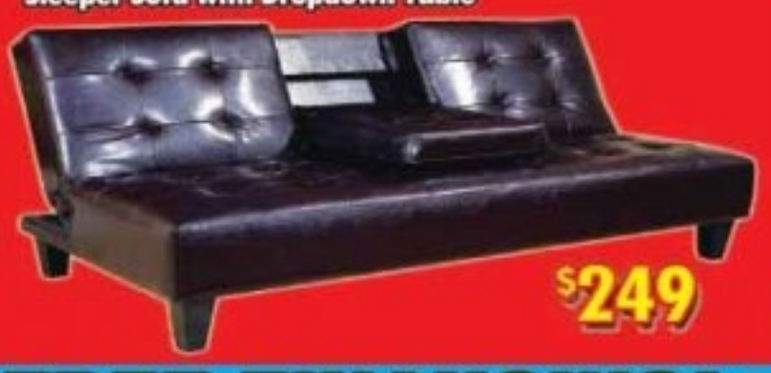

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Government failed to secure Obamacare site

Risk. A flaw uncovered in October exposes details like users' full names and emails.

HealthCare.gov lets consumers shop for insurance plans under President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, which mandates health insurance for all Americans. / GETTY IMAGES

A cyber security professional warned that the U.S. government failed to implement fixes to protect the HealthCare.gov website from hackers at a congressional hearing that Democratic lawmakers claimed was politically motivated.

"HealthCare.gov is not secure today," David Kennedy, head of computer security consulting firm TrustedSec LLC, said at a Thursday hearing of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

He said "nothing has really changed" since a hearing of the same committee in November, when he and three other expert witnesses said they believed the site was not secure and three of them said it should be shut down immediately.

"I don't understand how we're still discussing whether the website is insecure or not," Kennedy told the committee. "It is insecure — 100 percent. It's not a question of whether or not its insecure, it's what we need to do to fix it."

Hackers could steal personal information, modify data or attack the personal computers of the website's users, he said. They could also damage the infrastructure of the site, Kennedy said in an interview with Reuters ahead of Thursday's testimony.

U.S. Representative Eddie Johnson, the top Democrat on the committee, said the Republican-led panel's focus on HealthCare.gov was politically motivated: "The majority has allowed the committee to become a tool of political messaging."

The Obama administration's efforts to repair the site helped it to work more smoothly in December, though some problems remain. REUTERS

Vulnerabilities

20

Before the hearing, Kennedy told Reuters the government has yet to plug more than 20 vulnerabilities that he and other security experts reported to the government shortly after HealthCare.gov went live on October 1.

Obama. New college initiative launched for low-income students

Drawing on their own stories as kids from families of modest means who used education to succeed, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama enlisted colleges and universities on Thursday to do more to help low-income students get into college.

"I'm doing this because that story of opportunity through education is the story of my life," Michelle Obama said.

"I didn't know anyone on campus except my brother. I didn't know how to pick the right classes or find the right buildings. I didn't even bring the right size sheets for my dorm room bed," she said, drawing laughs from the crowd of more than 80 college and university presidents and chancellors. REUTERS

Health

Organic food groups seek GMO labels

Four lawmakers joined with more than 200 food companies, organic farming groups, health and environment organizations and other groups on Thursday to urge President Barack Obama to require manufacturers to label food products that contain genetically engineered ingredients.

The groups delivered a letter to the president dated Jan. 16 reminding Obama of a campaign pledge the groups said he made in 2007 to label so-called GMO foods. REUTERS

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US likely to widen ban on profiling of criminal suspects

Muslims.
Complaints persist of the unwarranted targeting of religious or other groups.

The U.S. Justice Department is likely to widen a ban on the profiling of suspects by race to include other categories such as religion, country of origin, gender and sexual orientation, a person familiar with an internal review said on Thursday.

Broadening the ban would mark a major policy shift for U.S. law enforcement and would address a frequent complaint by minorities in America who feel they are singled out for unwarranted extra scrutiny.

The department's review of racial profiling continues and it was not certain when a final decision would be made, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Eric Holder, the first black U.S. attorney general, launched a review of Justice Department policy in late 2009, the same year he took office as an appointee of President Barack Obama, America's first black president.

"We've all seen heart-wrenching stories of misguided racial profiling," Holder said in a June 2010 speech to the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

"But we must always remember that virtually all of our nation's law enforcement officers serve their communities honorably — and risk their personal safety — every day."

He said at the time that the Justice Department would not "stand idly by" as some law enforcement departments engage in discriminatory policing.

The 2003 ban on racial profiling did not apply to national security cases — a loophole criticized by some rights activists. There is also a contentious debate over whether profiling is helpful in enforcement investigations.

The pending policy changes were first reported by The New York Times. REUTERS

A U.S. federal agent conducts surveillance. / GETTY IMAGES

Federal agents

2003

Federal agents have been prohibited from profiling potential criminal suspects by race in almost all cases since 2003.

Security steps

Citi to replace debit cards involved in Target breach

Citigroup will replace all customer debit cards involved in the data breach at Target Corp., a spokeswoman for the bank said.

The bank did not replace the cards sooner because it wanted to minimize disruptions during the holiday shopping season, The New York Times reported earlier, quoting a person briefed on the bank's decision.

"This is being done as a precautionary measure," Citi spokeswoman Elizabeth Fogarty told Reuters in an email reply late Wednesday. REUTERS

Battery charges

Boy in New Mexico school shooting took gun from home

A 12-year-old boy accused of opening fire with a shotgun at a New Mexico middle school, seriously wounding two students, has been charged with three counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, authorities said on Thursday.

The boy, Mason Campbell, will be tried as a juvenile in connection with what authorities have described as a planned attack at Berrendo Middle School in Roswell, said New Mexico State Police Lieutenant Emmanuel Gutierrez.

BERRENDO MIDDLE SCHOOL
GOOGLE MAPS

Campbell is accused of taking a 20-gauge shotgun from his home and modifying it. With the weapon concealed in a duffel bag, he entered the school gymnasium and opened fire on students waiting for classes to start on Tuesday, police said. REUTERS

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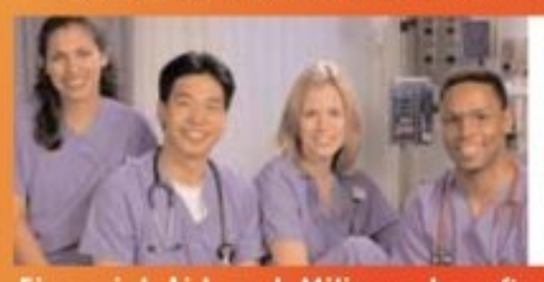

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2 CULTURE

Ones to watch

The woman who seems like she's behind a transparent turquoise curtain in this photo here is Imogen Poots. She's a British thespian who has had roles in movies you might not have seen, like "Solitary Man," "A Late Quartet" and "The Look of Love." But this year you'll definitely see her, as she stars in "That Awkward Moment," plus the Aaron Paul vehicle "Need for Speed." She's also among the massive ensemble in Peter Bogdanovich's comeback film, "Squirrels to the Nuts." Our New in the New Year stories highlight talent like Poots who have been making quiet noise in the background recently, but are poised to make big noise in the coming months.

Stepping into the spotlight

NEW in the new year

Movie stars. The world always needs fresh talent. Here are some actors that you'll be talking about in 2014.

Shailene Woodley

Where she's been: After collecting a handful of awards for playing George Clooney's level-headed (yet not, thankfully, merely precocious) daughter in "The Descendants," the 20-something brought genuine sincerity to her role as a wallflower finding first, questionable love in the sharp high school dramedy "The Spectacular Now."
Where she's going: She's the new "It" girl. She has the YA sci-fi pic "Divergent," in which she battles no less than Kate Winslet, out in March, plus another romance, "The Fault in Our Stars," in which she's a cancer patient who falls for a paraplegic former basketball player. Most exciting is "White Bird in a Blizzard," a Sundance-bound indie in which her life is thrown into disarray after her mother (Eva Green) goes AWOL.

Felicity Jones

Where she's been: The English actress turned heads as a youngster whose love was ruined by immigration laws in "Like Crazy." But it was her fierce and introspective performance as Nelly Ternan, Charles Dickens' secret mistress, in "The Invisible Woman" that proved she was capable of greatness.
Where she's going: She has a small but key role in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2." But she should have much more room to shine as third-billed in "True Story," about a journalist (Jonah Hill) who discovers a wanted murderer (James Franco) has been falsely living under his name. And next year she plays Stephen Hawking's wife in "Theory of Everything," opposite Eddie Redmayne.

Long overdue

David Oyelowo

Where he's been: You've seen the English actor in "The Help," "Red Tails," "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," "Lincoln," "Middle of the Road" and "The Paperboy." He's probably best remembered though as Forest Whitaker's revolutionary son in "Lee Daniels' The Butler."
Where he's going: Along with more indies like "Default" and "Captive," he'll have a prominent role in Christopher Nolan's breathlessly anticipated "Interstellar." He's also rumored for a role in no less than "Jurassic World."

Melonie Diaz

Where she's been: Diaz has been around for a while, including stealing chunks of "Raising Victor Vargas," "Hamlet 2" and "Be Kind Rewind." But she received more attention than she's used to last year as Oscar Grant III's girlfriend in "Fruitvale Station."
Where she's going: She's in an Adam Sandler movie! Actually, it's one of Sandler's periodic good (or at least good-intentioned) ones. She's one of the stars of "The Cobbler," a dramedy fantasy written and directed by Thomas McCarthy ("The Visitor," "Win Win").

Brady Corbet

Where he's been: Starting with "Mysterious Skin," the young actor has been a reliable presence in the "Funny Games" remake, "Martha Marcy May Marlene" and "Melancholia," as Kirsten Dunst's impromptu boy toy. It was last year's "Simon Killer," in which he played a polite, awkward and furtively evil sociopath, that pushed him overboard.
Where he's going: He'll be all over the world. He's in "Sils Maria," by French filmmaker Olivier Assayas ("Carlos"), alongside Kristen Stewart, Chloe Grace Moretz and Juliette Binoche. Assayas passed him over to his girlfriend, Mia Hansen-Love, for "Eden," co-starring Greta Gerwig. And he's in "Paradise Lost," in which he's dating the niece of Pablo Escobar.

Lake Bell

Where she's been: Last year, Bell — a promising part of "What Happens in Vegas," "It's Complicated" and "No Strings Attached" — took matters into her own hands and wrote, directed and starred in "In a World...," playing an ignored but ambitious voiceover narrator fighting her way into a patriarchal business.
Where she's going: She's been rewarded for her indie hit by getting to make out with Jon Hamm in "Million Dollar Arm." She'll also voice Mona Lisa in "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," plus do more serious work in the thriller "The Coup," with Owen Wilson and Pierce Brosnan.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

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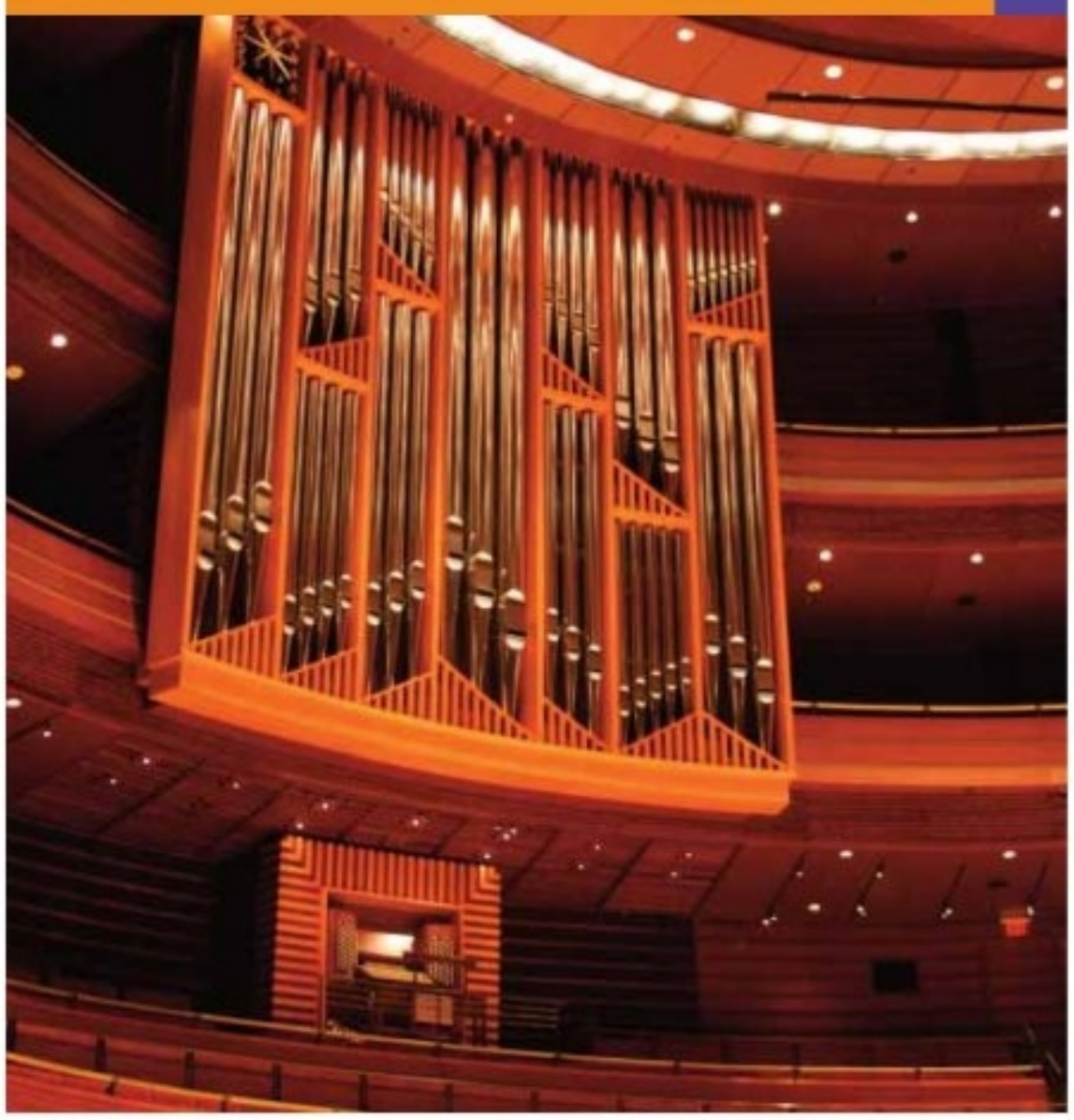

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Cold War front

Reboot. A George H.W. Bush-era hero gets revived in a movie that's only somewhat old hat.

Chris Pine meets and greets Kevin Costner in "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit." / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

In the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush eras, the late Tom Clancy made a pretty penny spinning Cold War tales of intrigue involving scary foreign nations. His black-and-white worldview hasn't translated well in our more complex post-9/11 landscape. The opening of "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," a reboot of Clancy's most famous character that's also (of course) an origin story, suggests the makers haven't learned their lesson. In the first scene, Ryan (Chris Pine) is just an average college student who finds himself mobilized after watching the World Trade Center collapse live on TV. Proving the film's truly stuck in the past, Ryan grows up to battle Russians. Wait — the Russians? Even given Vladimir Putin, what era is this?

But this is a false alarm. "Jack Ryan" settles into being the film equivalent of an airport novel. The plot turns on Ryan's first big job, one invented from whole cloth, not from one of the 17 Ryan novels. Long an undercover Wall Street stooge, he starts suspecting some underhandedness from a Russian businessman (Kenneth Branagh).

In addition to playing a creepily placid and cold-blooded baddie, Branagh directed the picture. As with "Thor," he's less an outside-the-box choice than straight-up odd. It's hard to detect his personality here, which in some ways is a good thing. It's anonymous, slick work, devoid of the drawn-out melodrama that torpedoed the likes of "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." "Jack Ryan" is cool, steadily paced and modestly engaging.

That's not to say it's free of any personality. What Branagh (or someone) does bring to it is an emphasis on Ryan's humanity. He's no superhero. When he gets into his first fight, he's clumsy, visibly panicking, in over his head. He's not a complete everyman; he becomes rather good at ass-kicking, driving and bomb-thwarting rather quickly. But he still freaks out in the heat of the moment.

The inclusion of a pesky girlfriend (Keira Knightley) is bothersome, though Knightley is game enough that she nearly makes her character not a sexist stereotype. Even better is Kevin Costner, who plays Ryan's mentor as gruff and wry. Personality goes a long way, and there's enough of it here to make you wish for sequels that did even less with the Clancy sources.

Review

'Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit'

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Stars: Chris Pine, Keira Knightley

Rating: PG-13

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Buddy comedy. 'Ride Along' assumes Hart will do everything

Kevin Hart's fame has risen quickly and sharply, so it's understandable that film execs have rushed to put him in something, anything, while he's still fresh. It would be nice if the movies gave him something more to do. Like "Grudge Match," "Ride Along" seems to have been designed with the assumption that, with cameras rolling, Hart will do something, and whatever it is will be gold. He is funny, and he has an original presence: He's a confident motormouth with massive insecurity problems — a braggart who's a total wuss.

"Ride Along" is so lazy that it usually forgets to exploit this running gag. A routine mismatched buddy picture, it pairs him with Ice Cube. The former N.W.A member plays a hotshot detective pissed his sister is set to marry Hart's wannabe cop. "Ride Along" has its moments, largely because it relies on Hart, and to a lesser extent Ice Cube. But the comic deserves more.

MATT PRIGGE

Ice Cube is totally dismayed by Kevin Hart's exuberance in "Ride Along." / QUANTRELL COLBERT

Review

'Ride Along'

Director: Tim Story

Stars: Kevin Hart, Ice Cube

Rating: PG-13

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KENNETH BRANAGH

The actor and filmmaker talks about his shift from Shakespeare to Marvel and Tom Clancy.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Kenneth Branagh was only 29 when he directed and starred in 1989's "Henry V." Though he's frequently returned to the Bard — including an uncut "Hamlet" in 1996 — he's directed (in addition to frequently acting in) all manner of genres: thrillers ("Dead Again"), dramedies ("Peter's Friends"), horror ("Mary Shelley's Frankenstein"). Still, it was odd to see his name on 2011's "Thor," as well as the new "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," about the Tom Clancy character of "The Hunt for Red October."

Were you looking to do something of similar size right after doing "Thor"?

I was not particularly looking to continue to do big movies. It started with an idea, and the idea was the script coming through the door, and I started reading it and I was hooked by it. The Jack Ryan character is this everyman with a brilliant mind who gets out of his depths and is drawn into covert operation. I loved those early '70s movies like "Three Days of the Condor," "The French Connection," "Dog Day Afternoon" — these gritty, atmospheric movies that combined great action with great actors.

Not all of your earlier films are small: "Hamlet" is quite large and in 70mm. But what's the appeal of the specific size and breed of franchise filmmaking?

You have greater resources with a film like this. It is amazing when you realize that if you would like to use a camera crane, at least once a day and maybe even three times, they will end up being there. Sometimes you turn around and look at the numbers on the set and think, "Christ, how did all these people get here?" So it does often affect you, especially when you've made movies where you're driving the cast and sometimes making this big pot of chili, which is the catering that day.

Chris Pine's version of Ryan isn't a slick superhero. When he's fighting, he can be clumsy.

I like that, that's a good word: clumsy. The books are full of detail that says, "Yeah, he's a little like you and I." You can imagine having dinner with him; you can imagine being his friend; you can imagine bumping into him at the supermarket. But you'd also be glad to be in a fix with him, because he has a dogged determination and a kind of transcendent decency. One of the things I liked about working with Chris Pine on this is that he can do that and still be the sexy, charismatic movie star.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

At the Globe

Back to the Bard

Branagh will one day return to filming Shakespeare. Is there a play he'd love to film? "'A Winter's Tale' is a one I've wanted to do, all of my life. And now I'm getting old enough to think about 'King Lear' as well, a play I've been in many times. I love getting that language out there."

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The heyday of local porn

XXX. PhilaMOCA's double feature tackles every taboo.

"Every imaginable sexual deviation is lampooned" in his film, Hoersch says. / DISTRIBPIX INC.

While International House continues its month-long survey of films from the sexual revolution, PhilaMOCA will play host to a pair of films that made less of an impact but stick closer to home. Presented by Danger After Dark, "SOS: Screw on the Screen" (1975) and "The Erotic Memoirs of a Male Chauvinist Pig" (1973) are both porn films shot in Philly during the heyday of adult films.

"SOS: Screw on the Screen" is a combination of hardcore porn and sketch comedy that attempts to bring the titular magazine to cinematic life. The entirety of "The Erotic Memoirs of a Male Chauvinist Pig" was shot in Philly by Ray Hoersch, including an emergency room scene filmed in what is now Hahnemann University Hospital. That's far from Hoersch's most audacious location; another film, "Miss Terry Takes a Liberty," featured scenes of public sex in a variety of local historic landmarks. "That was back when you could actually touch the Liberty Bell," Hoersch says, "and bang on it if you wanted."

Hoersch, 70, has led the sort of life where shooting porn at notable tourist attractions rates little more than a footnote. He's been a lifelong pornographer, a drug smuggler, a forger of art and banknotes and an ex-con several times over (most recently for the 2009 discovery of a pot-growing operation in the basement of his Bucks County home). His films and photography have tended to dwell on the darker aspects of sex, leading to accusations of misogyny and exploitation.

"My interest has always been in sexuality as an entirely legitimate area for artistic investigation, but I seem to be relatively alone in that view," Hoersch says. "Anything involving a naked person is assumed to be purposed for arousal and titillation, end of story. It's like saying that [Steven] Spielberg made 'Schindler's List' because he gets off on seeing people tortured in concentration camps. It's absurd to say that, and I think it's equally absurd to put that one-dimensional view onto sexuality."

If you go

Philly-Shot XXX Double Feature

Jan. 17, 8 p.m.
PhilaMOCA
531 N. 12th St.
$10
www.philamoca.org

SHAUN BRADY
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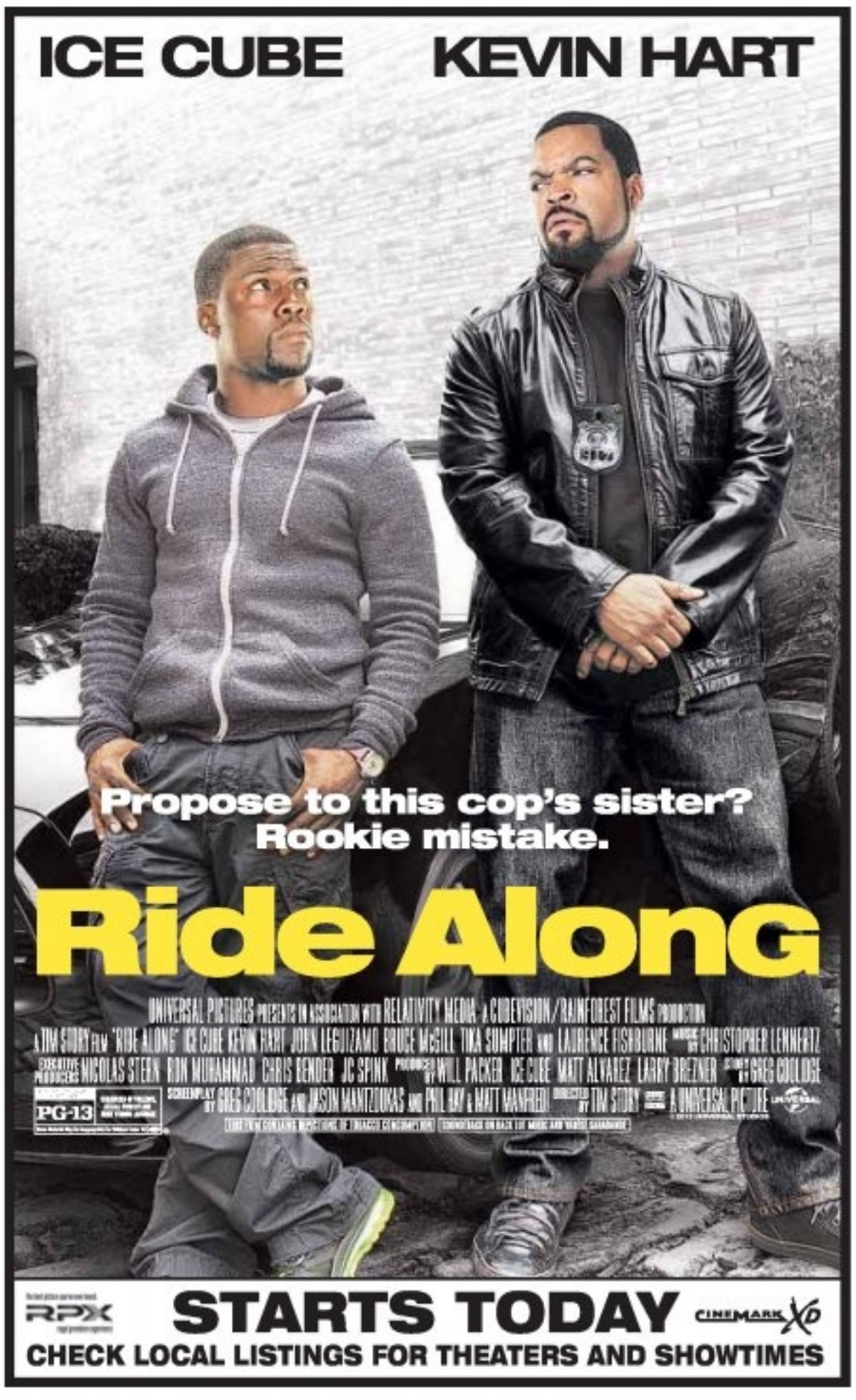

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AMC Franklin Mills Mall 14
888-AMC-4FUN
1149 Franklin Mills Circle
ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) 12:35, 6:00, 11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DEVIL'S DUE (R) 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) 11:15, 4:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN 3D (PG) 1:50, 7:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 2:25, 8:15, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
GRUDGE MATCH (PG-13) 11:55, 2:35, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG-13) 10:45, 4:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13) 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT IN IMAX (NR) 10:35, 1:25, 4:00, 6:45, 9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation;IMAX
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES 3D (PG-13) 10:20, 12:50, 5:45, 8:10, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG-13) 3:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) 10:40, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB IN 3D (PG) 1:20, 6:10, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE NUT JOB (PG) 10:50, 3:40, 8:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES (R) 10:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) 10:30, 11:10, 12:00, 1:10, 1:50, 2:40, 3:45, 4:25, 5:15, 6:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:00, 9:45, 10:30, 11:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA CHRISTMAS (PG-13) 10:05, 3:20, 8:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Cherry Hill 24
888-AMC-4FUN
Rt. 38 and Haddonfield Rd.
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) 1:20, 7:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 10:05, 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:15, 12:55, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05, 11:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-12:55-3:35-6:20-9:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 11:25, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:25.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS (PG-13) 9:20. Digital Presentation
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) Fri and Sat 2:20, 7:10, 12:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 2:20-7:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
DEVIL'S DUE (R) Fri and Sat 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-12:40-3:00-5:20-7:40-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) 10:30, 4:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN 3D (PG) 1:15, 6:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 11:05, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:25, 10:40. RealD 3D
GRUDGE MATCH (PG-13) 4:20, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
HER (R) 10:10, 1:05, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG IN 3D (PG-13) 2:55, 9:55. RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG-13) 11:20, 6:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13) 10:05, 1:25, 4:35, 7:55, 11:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 10:00, 12:35, 3:10, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55. Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT IN IMAX (NR) Fri and Sat 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40, 12:15. Digital Presentation;IMAX; Sun 11:15-1:50-4:25-7:00-9:40. Digital Presentation;IMAX
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES 3D (PG-13) 10:25, 3:20, 5:50, 8:15, 10:45. RealD 3D
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG-13) 12:50. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF A KING (PG-13) 1:20, 6:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri and Sat 10:10, 11:35, 1:00, 2:25, 3:45, 5:15, 6:40, 8:05, 9:35, 10:50, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:10-11:35-1:00-2:25-3:45-5:15-6:40-8:05-9:35-10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM (PG-13) 10:15.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB IN 3D (PG) 10:00, 2:40, 7:20. RealD 3D
THE NUT JOB (PG) 12:20, 5:00, 9:45. Digital Presentation
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES (R) Fri and Sat 10:35, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50, 12:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:35-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:35-9:50. Digital Presentation
REASONABLE DOUBT (R) 12:00, 5:00, 9:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 10:40-12:20-1:10-2:50-3:40-5:20-6:10-7:50-8:40-10:20-11:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13) 10:55, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (PG) 3:45, 8:50, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG) 11:10. Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 11:00, 2:45, 6:30, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Neshaminy 24
215-396-8050
Route 1 and Bristol Rd.
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) 4:50.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 12:15, 3:25, 6:35, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:45.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
BACK IN THE DAY (2003) (R) 3:00, 8:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS (PG-13) 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) 1:55, 10:30.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DEVIL'S DUE (R) Fri and Sat 9:35, 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45, 12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:35-12:00-2:25-4:55-7:15-9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH (R) Sun 2:00. CLASSIC SERIES;Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) 10:40, 4:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN 3D (PG) 1:40, 7:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:15, 1:45, 4:10, 6:40, 9:05, 11:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 11:15-1:45-4:10-6:40-9:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
GRUDGE MATCH (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:35, 4:25, 10:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 4:25-10:10. Digital Presentation
HER (R) 9:45, 12:45, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG IN 3D (PG-13) 10:55, 6:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG-13) 2:40, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13) 12:10, 3:30, 6:50, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS (R) 5:25, 10:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:45, 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15, 12:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-12:30-3:15-6:15-9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT IN IMAX (NR) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation;IMAX
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES 3D (PG-13) 9:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG-13) 1:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri and Sat 10:30, 12:05, 1:30, 3:05, 4:30, 6:00, 7:35, 9:00, 10:40, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-12:05-1:30-3:05-4:30-6:00-7:35-9:00-10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB IN 3D (PG) 12:00, 4:45, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE NUT JOB (PG) 9:30, 2:20, 7:15. Digital Presentation
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES (R) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:10, 4:35, 6:55, 9:25, 11:50. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:10-4:35-6:55-9:25. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
PHILOMENA (PG-13) 11:20, 7:55. 171371;AMC INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:30, 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-10:15-11:15-12:15-1:00-2:00-3:00-3:45-4:45-5:45-6:30-7:30-8:30-9:15-10:15-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13) 10:05, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (PG) Fri and Sat 1:35, 7:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:35-7:20. Digital Presentation
WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG) 10:00, 12:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 10:20, 2:15, 6:20, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Plymouth Meeting Mall 12
888-AMC-4FUN
Next to Plymouth Meeting Mall
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) Fri 6:30, 9:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 7:00-10:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
47 RONIN (PG-13) 11:15, 10:15. Digital Presentation
47 RONIN 3D (PG-13) 4:45. RealD 3D
ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) 11:25, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20. Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) Fri 11:10, 2:10, 5:15, 8:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:10-10:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS (PG-13) Fri 11:00, 4:15, 9:40. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:45-4:15-9:40. Digital Presentation
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) Fri 2:30, 7:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:40-5:30-10:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) Fri 11:00, 4:10, 9:25. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:00-4:10-9:20. Digital Presentation
FROZEN 3D (PG) Fri 1:35, 6:50. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 1:30-6:40. RealD 3D
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) Fri 11:45, 5:30, 10:30. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 10:25-3:20-8:10. RealD 3D
GRUDGE MATCH (PG-13) Fri 12:55, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:20-12:55-3:30-6:15-9:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS (R) Fri 11:25, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES 3D (PG-13) 12:30, 5:15, 9:55. RealD 3D
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG-13) Fri 2:50, 7:35. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:10-2:50-7:35. Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB IN 3D (PG) 1:45, 6:45. RealD 3D
THE NUT JOB (PG) 11:20, 4:30, 9:15. Digital Presentation
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES (R) 11:05, 1:25, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 10:00. Digital Presentation
THE SUSPECT (NR) 2:00, 7:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA CHRISTMAS (PG-13) 1:55, 7:15. Digital Presentation
WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG) Fri 12:00, 4:20. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:15-4:40. Digital Presentation
WALKING WITH DINOSAURS 3D (PG) Fri 2:15. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 10:00-2:25. RealD 3D

AMC Woodhaven 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 13, near I-95 and Woodhaven Road exit
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) Fri 2:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:50-2:00-4:05-7:10-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) 4:15, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) Fri 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:40-1:50-4:50-7:45-10:40.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) Fri 12:15, 5:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:00-12:15-5:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN 3D (PG) Fri 2:45, 7:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 10:00-2:45-7:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
HER (R) Fri 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:30-1:25-4:20-7:15-10:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) Fri 1:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:20-1:35-5:15-7:50-10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES 3D (PG-13) Fri 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35. RealD 3D
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG-13) Fri 12:55. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:05. Digital Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri 1:15, 4:30, 7:20, 9:20, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:25-1:15-4:30-7:20-9:20-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB IN 3D (PG) 12:35, 5:20, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE NUT JOB (PG) Fri 2:50, 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:00-2:50-7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:30-2:10-4:40-7:40-10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 12:30, 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

Bryn Mawr Film Institute
610-527-9898
824 West Lancaster Avenue
BEETHOVEN (PG) Sat 11:00
BOLSHOI BALLET: JEWELS (NR) Sun 10:00
HER (R) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Sat and Sun 1:30-4:00-7:00-9:30.
PHILOMENA (PG-13) Fri 4:15, 7:15, 9:15; Sat and Sun 1:45-4:15-7:15-9:15.

Hiway Theatre
215-886-9800
212 Old York Road
HER (R) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 9:35; Sat 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:35.; Sun 1:00-4:00-7:00.

Reel Cinemas Anthony Wayne Theater
610-225-2442
109 West Lancaster Avenue
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 12:40, 3:35, 7:10, 9:50. Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) 12:30, 3:15, 5:50. Digital Presentation
INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS (R) 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 9:40. Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) Fri 12:50, 3:55, 6:45, 9:40. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:50-3:55-6:45-9:40. Digital Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) 12:40, 3:30, 6:25, 9:40. Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 8:30. Digital Presentation

Reel Cinemas Narberth 2
610-667-0115
129 North Narberth Avenue
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sat and Sun 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) Fri 4:10, 7:10, 10:00. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sat and Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:00. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating

Regal Marketplace 24
800-326-3264 341
180 Mill Road
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 1:20, 4:30, 7:25, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) 2:20, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS (PG-13) 12:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) 5:30, 10:45. CC-Closed Captions
DEDH ISHQIYA (NR) 9:35
DEVIL'S DUE (R) 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
FROZEN (PG) 12:15, 1:55, 2:45, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 12:50, 3:10, 8:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES 3D (PG-13) Fri 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35. RealD 3D
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG-13) Fri 12:55. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:05. Digital Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri 1:15, 4:30, 7:20, 9:20, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:25-1:15-4:30-7:20-9:20-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB IN 3D (PG) 12:35, 5:20, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE NUT JOB (PG) Fri 2:50, 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:00-2:50-7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:30-2:10-4:40-7:40-10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 12:30, 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
DEVIL'S DUE (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 8:00, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
HER (R) 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 10:00
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG-13) 12:10, 3:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13) 1:00, 7:00
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 1:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LONE SURVIVOR (R) 1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
NEBRASKA (R) 4:20, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (PG) 12:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 2:50, 6:40, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

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12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) 12:15, 3:10, 6:30, 9:20
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 12:20, 1:15, 3:00, 4:00, 5:40, 7:00, 8:20, 9:40
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) 1:00, 3:45, 7:10, 9:40
PHILOMENA (PG-13) 12:25, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45

Ritz East
215-925-4535
2nd Street between Walnut and Chestnut
HER (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

Join the cult

Q&A. "The Following" star Shawn Ashmore talks Fox's hot, dark show.

"The Following" has so much more going for it than six degrees of star power (Kevin Bacon is the lead). The creepy-as-hell crime thriller about a serial killer/cult leader with legions of murderous devotees scares up all kinds of drama. We spoke with Shawn Ashmore, who plays Bacon's fellow cop Mike Weston, about serial killers, sweaty palms and the appeal of horror TV.

"The Following" premieres on Jan. 19 at 10:30 p.m. on Fox, then returns to its Monday, 9 p.m. time slot. / FOX

What drew you to this project? Are you really into scary movies?
I'm definitely a fan of horror films and genre films. The best horror films, at least in my opinion, are the ones that create great characters for the first hour and then deliver on the scares. I love slow-burn storytelling when it comes to horror films. All of these things kind of came together and made me realize that this was a show that I would watch and something that I'd want to be a part of.

Do you find yourself hearing bumps in the night when you're home alone now?
No, you know, the stuff that scares me is all supernatural stuff, ghosts, possessions. Obviously the idea of someone breaking into my house and murdering me is terrifying, but I feel like I could protect myself to a certain extent from something like that. So really it's the unknown that scares me the most. It's the supernatural. The second I finished the pilot, after doing a ton of research on serial killers and stuff like that, I did install an upgraded security system in my house, so I can't say that it had no effect on me.

Survivalist

What would be the first thing you'd do in case of a zombiepocalypse?
First of all, don't have any windows on the ground floor. You have to be elevated and you have to have weapons and food. I don't think you'll ever outlast them, you just have to last as long as you can.

Do you have a favorite serial killer?
I won't say favorite, but I did watch a ton of documentaries on YouTube. I spent days watching. The one serial killer that got under my skin the most was Jeffrey Dahmer. He was just so evil.

I watched an interview with him and what was scariest was that he was very charming.
Some people have discussions about Joe Carroll [the serial killer from "The Following."]: You know, he's too handsome and blah blah blah. Serial killers are most effective when they're charming and handsome, because they're chameleons. That's why they're successful, because you don't see them coming.

I have this idea that if I was in a real-life horror situation, I would be the only one to survive. Do you feel that way?
[Laughs] No, I wish I did. This is my real nightmare: a zombie apocalypse and me living in a house with all sorts of windows and having nowhere to go. So, in my dreams, I've prepared a bunker and am a nut job that has a bunch of weapons and firearms. I have dreams of how I would set up a house to protect myself. It hasn't happened and I hope it never does.

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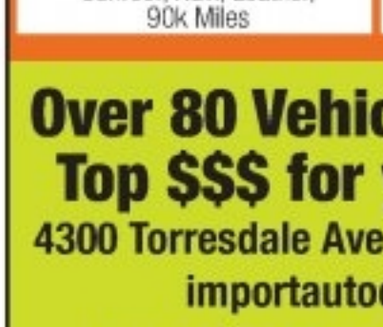
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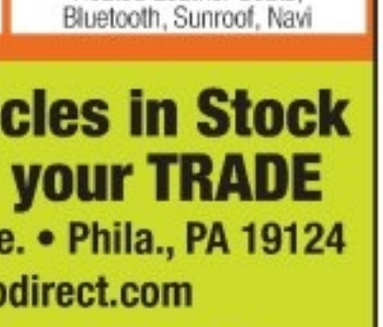
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Destined for small-screen stardom

NEW in the new year

Fresh faces.
Get to know four actors coming to a TV near you.

Jonathan Groff

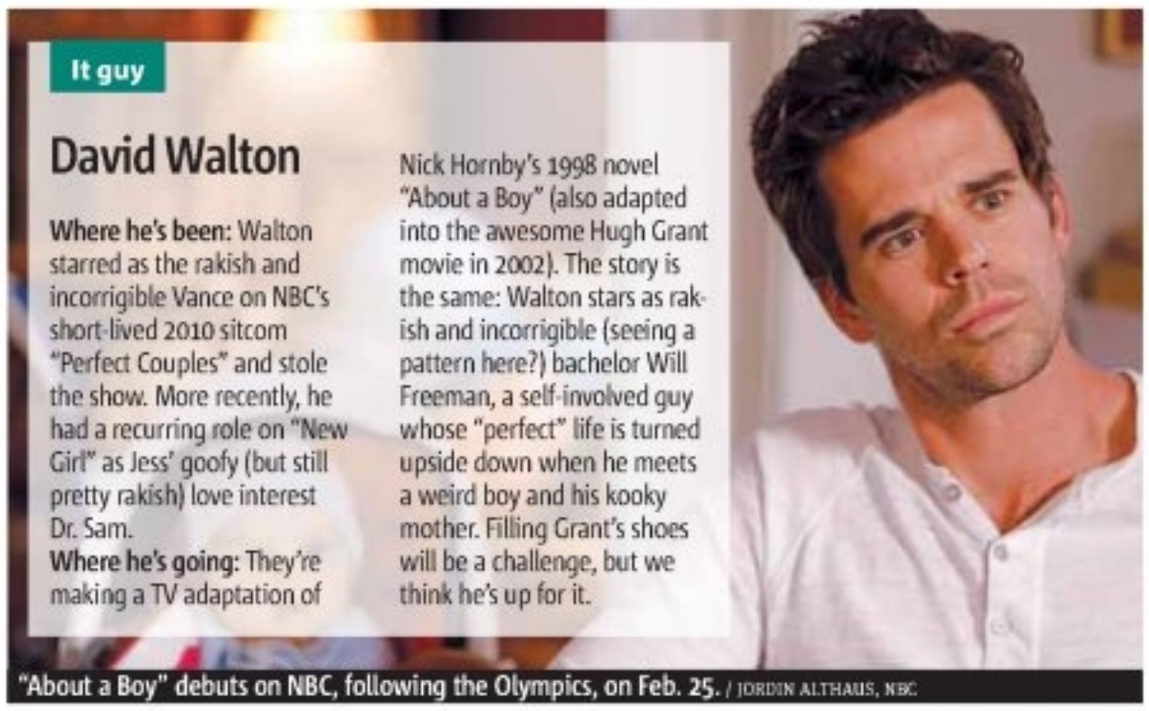
Where he's been: Remember Jesse St. James from "Glee"? He was the cocky (and cute!) lead of Vocal Adrenaline, New Direction's biggest singing rival. He pretended to like Rachel to get close to the group and take them down from the inside, and eventually ended up egging her in a parking lot. Not cool, bro.

Where he's going: On "Glee," his character sang his heart out — in his new role, he's the one who's out. Groff stars as one of the three leads on HBO's "Looking," premiering this Sunday. The new drama/comedy is about a group of gay friends in San Francisco a la "Girls," but, you know, with guys. He's still really cute.

Greg Kinnear

Where he's been: OK, OK, you know where he's been. Kinnear is not exactly a fresh face, seeing as he's a movie star — "As Good as It Gets," "Little Miss Sunshine," "You've Got Mail," just to name a few — but he's never before starred in a scripted comedy on the small screen ("Talk Soup" doesn't count).

Where he's going: That's about to change, because Kinnear is set to star in Fox's new comedy "Rake," premiering Jan. 23, as Keegan Deane, a self-destructive criminal defense lawyer whose career and personal life are in the toilet. An adaptation of an Australian drama, this "Rake" paints Deane in a less bleak light (apparently the original was pretty dark), probably because it's difficult not to be charmed by Kinnear. The role is on trend with a new movement of big names in film moving to TV, a la Kevin Bacon in "The Following."



"About a Boy" debuts on NBC, following the Olympics, on Feb. 25. / JORDIN ALTHAUS, NBC

It guy

David Walton

Where he's been: Walton starred as the rakish and incorrigible Vance on NBC's short-lived 2010 sitcom "Perfect Couples" and stole the show. More recently, he had a recurring role on "New Girl" as Jess' goofy (but still pretty rakish) love interest Dr. Sam.

Where he's going: They're making a TV adaptation of Nick Hornby's 1998 novel "About a Boy" (also adapted into the awesome Hugh Grant movie in 2002). The story is the same: Walton stars as rakish and incorrigible (seeing a pattern here?) bachelor Will Freeman, a self-involved guy whose "perfect" life is turned upside down when he meets a weird boy and his kooky mother. Filling Grant's shoes will be a challenge, but we think he's up for it.

Funny girl

Sasheer Zamata

Where she's been: A regular performer with Upright Citizens Brigade, the comedian has appeared in sketches on fellow comedians' shows, including "Inside Amy Schumer."

Where she's going: Zamata might not have face recognition now, but she will soon. Just hired as the newest cast member on "Saturday Night Live," she's the first black female member since 2007. We have high hopes that Zamata can shake up a show many feel is tired and a bit rote.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
alexandra.cavallo@metro.us

On TV

Watch this

What: "The Spoils of Babylon"
Why: Um, why not? This spoof of epic TV miniseries adaptations has a cast so good, we'd watch them do anything. Stars include Kristen Wiig, Will Ferrell, Haley Joel Osment (he sees funny people!), Val Kilmer, Tim Robbins and more.
When: Now! Premiered Jan. 9 on IFC.

What: "Ali G: Rezurection"
Why: Sure, Borat was funny, but Sacha Baron Cohen is at his best when playing Ali G, his "rude boy"-talking, ignorant, white boiii alter ego. Unfortunately, these won't be new episodes, but Cohen will introduce each episode with new commentary.
When: Tentatively set for a February premiere on FXX.

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Rosemary Fiki is a vixen

Soulful. The singer is bringing Afro-pop to Art Sanctuary.

Rosemary Fiki's music is a blend of different styles. / PROVIDED

Rosemary Fiki of Philly is turning heads with her rocking Afro-pop sound, so much that she was designated a Vibe Vixen by the magazine of the same name in the spring.

That's Vibe Vixen, not video vixen.

"A 'vixen' is a word like diva, which has gone on to mean a woman who is strong and talented and has a super ego," Fiki says. "A vixen back in the day was someone who was over sexualized, a Playboy pinup. Now, a vixen is a woman who's out there, doing it."

Fiki certainly is out there and doing it. Her "The RoseMary Fiki EP" lit up the urban blogosphere in the spring, thanks to Fiki's sparkling, soulful music. It's a hybrid sound, effervescent yet edgy, soaring yet warmly sedate.

"My team comes from all different backgrounds," says Fiki, who is of Nigerian descent. "There's hip-hop, rock, acoustic sounds, it all comes together. ... That's what you hear on the EP."

Karl Hicks, late of the city hip-hop group Schoolz of Thought, is the producer and musical director for Fiki's band. They are also gaining notice in the Afro-punk scene. "In Afro-punk there is so many types of people who are into punk rock, rock, Goth, hip-hop — it's people who are different coming together," Fiki says. "They love music and they're open to being original."

Fiki and her crew are working on a new EP, which is scheduled for release this spring. Up next is a show this Friday at Art Sanctuary with Latriece Branson, along with a showing of the photographs of Erinn Cosby, Bill Cosby's daughter.

If you go

The RoseMary Fiki Band and Latriece Branson
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Skaters will bring rock 'n' roll back to the masses when "Manhattan" drops on Feb. 25. / IAN ROOK

Who's making noise in 2014?

NEW in the new year

Up-and-coming. You'll be listening to these artists this year.

Skaters

Where they've been: We profiled this NYC five-piece last April (we're early adopters!) as they were working on their debut album. Well, that debut, titled "Manhattan" will finally be released on Feb. 25 by Warner Brothers.

Where they're going: You know how every 10 years or so a band comes along that makes people remember that rock 'n' roll can still be a vital life force? Skaters are the next band to do that. On "Manhattan," they mix the energetic clean guitar and city 'tude of the Strokes' debut with the type of dub that The Clash dabbled in. While listening to the album it feels like you're actually hearing a brand-new band in the process of bonding. "This band formed in a kind of strange, rapid, organic fashion," says singer Michael Ian Cummings. "Literally, the band was formed in a night, we booked three shows the next morning and then we had to write a bunch of songs. We were signed to Warner like eight months later." We have a feeling their rise to prominence will be just as quick.

Drenge

Where they've been: Brothers Eoin and Rory Loveless are 21 and 20, respectively, from a small village in England called Castleton. Rory describes it as such: "The music scene probably consists of karaoke every fortnight on a Saturday at one pub." So they obviously had to get out of there.

Where they're going: With their bombastic and muddy guitar and drum approach they could usher in a grunge revival. Songs on their self-titled debut (with titles like "People in Love Make Me Feel Yuck" and "I Don't Want to Make Love to You") capture what a lot of actual grunge acts forgot about, which was that cynicism and irony can actually be funny. As for one of the last one-word band names that is very search engine-friendly, Rory says it's a Danish word for boys, but he and his brother just liked the sound of it. "I thought it looked really funny and sounded really disgusting and horrible to listen to," Rory says. "We thought it would be a bit like what seeing us live might be because it's messy, and it's underage kids, drunk in the corner of the bar and staring at everyone and shouting."

Drenge play to the drunk kids in the corner. / ANDY WILLSHER

Also rising

Jasiri X

Where he's been: He's toured colleges across the country, linked up with rappers ranging from Brother Ali to Rhymefest and delivered hard-hitting news rap-ups via his groundbreaking Web series "This Week with Jasiri X."

Where he's going: Jasiri X is the antidote for listeners sick of mainstream rap monotony. No "molly," money or sex boasts coming from this Pittsburgh MC. He's too busy reviving hip-hop's activist roots with tracks about Occupy Wall Street, immigration and the murder of Trayvon Martin.

LAUREN CARTER

Even closer ...

Judith Hill

Where she's been: If you got to know the music of Judith Hill from her participation in the movie "20 Feet from Stardom," or from her turn on "The Voice," you still don't really know the music of Judith Hill. But with those pipes, we guarantee she's moving a lot closer than "20 Feet from Stardom."

Where she's going: The vocalist is currently working on her debut album (she doesn't consider her participation on last year's "Red Hook Summer" soundtrack a proper debut), which she hopes to have out in April.

"It's a soulful record with hip-hop beats and it has some poppy elements and is very vocal-driven," she says of the untitled work in progress.

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Trace Adkins fought his own impersonator

Trace Adkins Prime apparently fought a Trace Adkins impersonator.
GETTY IMAGES

Is getting into a drunken fistfight with your own impersonator the ultimate rock bottom or the best day of your life? For country singer Trace Adkins, it was sadly the former when it happened to him on Monday on a country music-themed cruise.

TMZ.com reports that Adkins, who's sober, had fallen off the wagon and was drinking heavily on the cruise — which, let's cut the guy some slack, probably happens more often than not on cruises, especially country music-themed ones. Adkins apparently ran into a Trace Adkins impersonator doing karaoke as him. Something went down and the two went at it, one familiar fist at a time.

Adkins reportedly left when the ship docked in Jamaica and checked himself into rehab. No word on whether his impersonator did the same.

Talking points

No plastic surgery for Obama — yet

Michelle Obama turned 50 yesterday, so People magazine asked her about plastic surgery. While the first lady hasn't had any work done — and doesn't have plans for any — she's not taking the option off the table. "Women should have the freedom to do whatever they need to do to feel good about themselves," she says. "Right now, I don't imagine that I would go that route, but I've also learned to never say never."

Happy birthday, first lady!
GETTY IMAGES

Bieber is 'cooperating with authorities'

Sources close to Justin Bieber insist the singer is doing his best to play nice with police following the raid on his home that resulted in a narcotics bust for pal Lil Za. "Justin is of course cooperating with the authorities," a source tells E! News. "He's also moving forward and concentrating on work and his new music." Bieber could still face felony vandalism charges for allegedly egging his neighbor's house badly enough to incur $20,000 in damages.

Cumberbatch: Not sexy, 'Sherlock'?

Apparently, no one thought Benedict Cumberbatch was sexy when they hired him for the role of Sherlock in the BBC series — because, what, DO THEY NOT HAVE EYES? Yes, "Sherlock" showrunner Steven Moffat and producer Sue Vertue, who cast the thespian in the role, didn't believe he could be regarded as, well, sexy. "When we first cast him, people were saying, 'You promised us a sexy one!'" remembers Vertue in the cover story of this week's Entertainment Weekly. "People weren't thinking of Benedict in that light at all."

A million Cumberbitches later, and they've changed their tune.

GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Keep a close watch on your situation today. Not everyone will play by the same rules. There is a good reason for your uncertainty.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Get whatever is troubling you out in the open. The more direct you are, the surer you will become of the path you have chosen.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. You will not see your situation clearly. Don't be fooled by compliments or someone using gestures of friendliness to ferret out personal information.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Accept the inevitable, but don't initiate change. Keep your eyes wide open and listen for any changes that might affect your status. Help your peers.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Broach personal subjects with caution. Showing compassion will help you ease into a situation.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Deal with a fraught situation while you have the chance. Make changes or offer assistance, and things will be easier when you need a favor.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Get together with someone you love. Sharing stories will help you build a closer bond. Make travel plans.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Don't let added responsibilities get you down. The more quickly you get your chores out of the way, the sooner you will be able to enjoy a change of pace.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Find out all you can about things that interest you. Listening to what others have to say will give you a wide variety of options to consider and pursue.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You may be forced to jump from one thing to another. Don't dilly-dally or you will be criticized.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Stay out of emotional talks that you cannot win. Concentrate on learning about new things. An interest in an unusual lifestyle will prompt alterations.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Consider making a personal investment in your home and your surroundings. A change in the way you live will inspire you.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		7		2				4
						2		
6	2	9	5					
	3	1	9	4			8	
		4	3	8	6	5		
	9			7	5	3	4	
					7	1	5	6
		2						
7				9		4		

			6		5		7	
3	1				4			8
	5		8	3		6		
9		5	2					
	6						5	
					6	2		1
		3		7	2		8	
5			1				3	6
	7		5		3			

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Give Christie some credit

Re: 'Czar Christie' (Metro, Jan. 16) Letter writer Janet Walsh did not give New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie credit. When have you ever seen any public official of either political party take direct questions from the media for more than two hours without the use of a teleprompter or notes? Ditto for immediately firing those accountable for the illegal actions. No "czar" would do all of the above.

LARRY PENNER, VIA EMAIL

Violence is half the issue

Re: 'Buffer zone mulled at Supreme Court' (Metro, Jan. 16) The Supreme Court is deciding whether or not to repeal the buffer zone law. You have pointed out that it was originally passed in response to violence against abortion providers. The question now is: How possible or probable are such acts today? I myself don't know. But if the Supreme Court doesn't take this question into account, it will be missing fully half the issue.

DANIEL CANTOR, VIA EMAIL

Online

Read letters at Metro.us

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letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Online

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Interactive Crossword

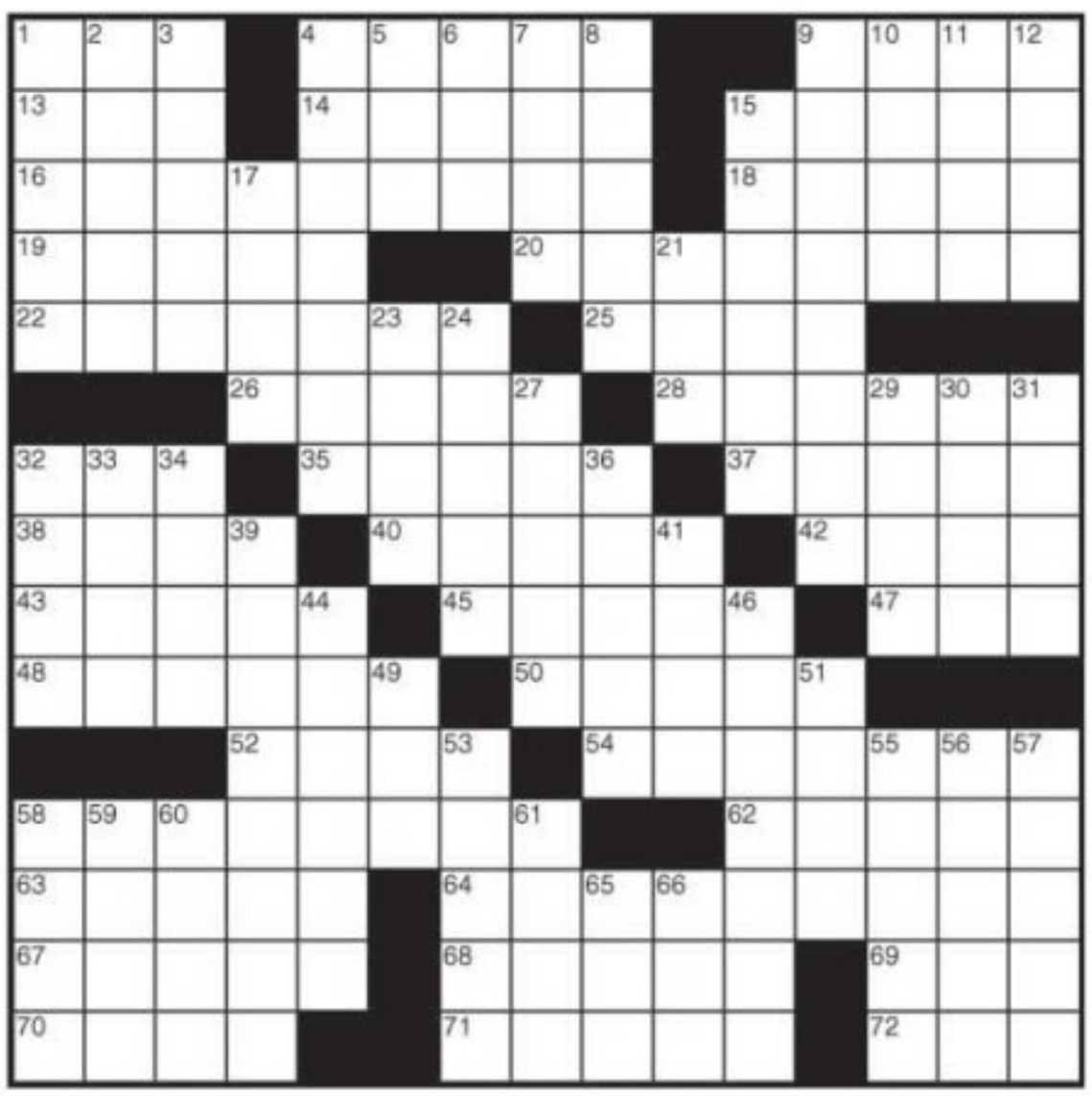
Crossword

Across

1 Lab denizen
4 Tendon
9 Quahog
13 Wheel buy (2 wds.)
14 Fountain in Rome
15 Hush money
16 Kind of muffin
18 Female vampire
19 Consummate
20 Fixed up a building
22 Sufi dancer
25 Deaden
26 Legally impede
28 Bank robbers' jobs
32 Toga-party order
35 Quinine water
37 City in India
38 Way out
40 Flower segment
42 Skylight locale
43 Cathedral parts
45 Vamoose
47 Pharaoh of note
48 Makes steel
50 Fake surfer (hyph.)
52 Novelist — Ambler
54 Melodious
58 Aussie jumper
62 Popular lily
63 Manicurist's board
64 "Too bad!" (2 wds.)
67 Stone and Thompson
68 A crowd?
69 Stooge name
70 Weaver's frame
71 Emmy-winning Ed
72 Standard

Down

1 Part of REM
2 Battery terminal
3 Narrow down
4 Salon employee
5 Tax org.
6 Bridal notice word
7 On any occasion
8 Do a road job
9 More grouchy
10 Nesting place
11 Irish Rose's guy
12 Beowulf's drink
15 Passed the buck
17 Lay a sidewalk
21 Bewildered response
23 Traffic sign
24 Whets
27 Throw
29 Suggestion box opening
30 Quaker pronoun
31 Prepare flour
32 Knows, to Burns
33 Reason to cram
34 Hand over
36 Sing door-to-door
39 Wire
41 Murderous Macbeth
44 Digresses
46 Protester, maybe
49 Polite word
51 Gauge
53 Terra —
55 Patch of trees
56 Aluminum company
57 NBA hoopster
58 Capsize, with "over"
59 BBs
60 "Nautilus" skipper
61 — and aahs
65 Coffee maker
66 Slangy thousand



Thursday's answer

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3

SPORTS

Billy on the move

Infamous statue to get new home

When Philadelphia has a new highest building, the "Statue of Billy Penn" will adorn its top. The statue, believed to have cursed the city from the 1980s on, was moved to the peak of Comcast's newest tower in 2007 and shortly thereafter the Phillies won the World Series. The company plans a new skyscraper that will be even taller; once it hits the sky so will the statue.

Union take goalie with No. 1 selection

MLS. Philadelphia picks Andre Blake first overall in the MLS SuperDraft.

When you serve as the host team in a professional sports draft, you're always looking to make the most noise for your home crowd in attendance. This was the case for the Philadelphia Union who traded with D.C. United for the No. 1 pick in the first-round of the 2014 MLS SuperDraft, held at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

The Union swapped their No. 2 pick with United in order to select goalkeeper Andre Blake out of Connecticut at No. 1. Blake registered 10 shutouts with a 0.75 GAA last season for the Huskies and was named the Goalkeeper of the Year in the AAC.

Blake isn't afraid of the expectations that come with being a No. 1 pick.

"It's a great feeling that comes with a great amount of pressure," said Blake. "You have to go out there and show that it was a good choice. But I'm a goalkeeper, I've been under pressure most of my life."

The Philadelphia Union should improve defensively in 2014 after selecting UConn's Andre Blake. / GETTY IMAGES

MLS SuperDraft results

Here's a look at the top 10 picks from this year's MLS SuperDraft held in Philadelphia Thursday afternoon:

1. Andre Blake, Union
2. Steve Birnbaum, DC United
3. Christian Dean, Vancouver
4. Steve Neumann, New England
5. Eric Miller, Montreal
6. Tesho Akindele, FC Dallas
7. Andre Lewis, Vancouver
8. Damion Lowe, Seattle
9. J.J. Koval, San Jose
10. Nick Hagglund, Toronto FC

Highly touted defenders Steve Birnbaum and Christian Dean out of California followed Blake with the No. 2 and No. 3 selections for United and the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Birnbaum was named a NSCAA First Team All-American last season while Dean was voted to the First Team All Pac-12 squad. They anchored a defense that allowed just 21 goals in as many games.

The New England Revolution and Montreal Impact rounded out the top five, selecting forward Steve Newmann (Georgetown) and defender Eric Miller (Creighton).

Newmann was named the Big East Offensive Player of the Year and a NSCAA second-team All-American, scoring 10 goals with six assists for the Hoyas.

Miller was named to the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup team last year and served as a defensive force in his three years for the Bluejays.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
sports@metro.us

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NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? SLOW PAY?

Major League Baseball's pace of play could slow considerably thanks to the passage of expanded instant replay for 2014. / GETTY IMAGES

MLB owners approve new replay rules

MLB. Owners and Bud Selig unanimously agree to expand regular-season replay.

After successful use of expanded instant replay in the 2013 MLB postseason, baseball's owners unanimously approved an instant replay plan Thursday, hailed by commissioner Bud Selig as "historic."

The new system will provide managers with one challenge per game before a second challenge is awarded, assuming their first challenge is upheld.

Once a manager is out of replay challenges, after the seventh inning, umpires will be allowed to review a play based on their own determination.

Calls at first base and at the plate will be reviewable for the first time in the history of the game.

To accommodate the new system of reviews and challenges, Major League Baseball added two entire umpiring crews to staff a replay center located in New York. Those umpires will be selected on a rotational basis.

Some of the plays eligible for instant replay review include ground-rule doubles, fan interference, fair or foul in the outfield only, hit by pitch, touching a base, all tag plays and most force plays.

The new rules will also allow controversial plays to be shown on stadium Jumbotrons for the first time, following in the footsteps of the NFL.

"I am very pleased that instant replay will expand to include additional impactful plays," Selig said in a statement. "The new system will give managers valuable recourse in potentially game-changing situations. The opportunity for our fans to see more replays in our ballparks is also an important modification that the clubs and I favored."

EVAN MACY
evan.macy@metro.us

New top candidate for Phillies booth

Morandini may have a new role with Phillies

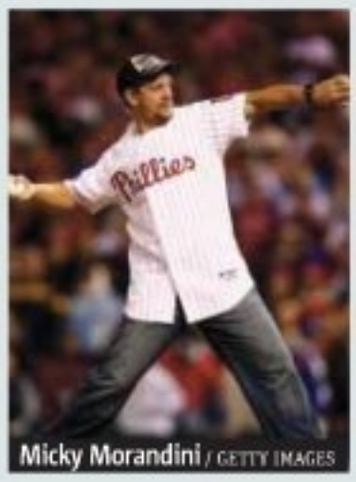
He was a beloved second baseman, drafted by the Phillies back in 1988, and he has never really left.

Though the former big leaguer did spend parts of his career away from the City of Brotherly Love, his heart always remained in the city, and with the Phillies.

And although he is currently employed by the Phillies Triple-A affiliate Lehigh Valley as an assistant coach and third base coach, Micky Morandini got the call to possibly make calls for a living.

It is believed that Morandini is not the only former Phillie to have received a phone call with regards to the job opening to replace the recently let go Chris Wheeler and Gary Matthews Jr.

Other former Phillies players under consideration for the gig include Kevin Stocker, Ricky Bottalico and Mitch Williams. **EVAN MACY**



Micky Morandini / GETTY IMAGES

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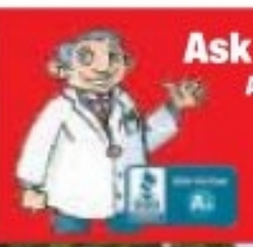

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3 Things to watch: Seahawks-49ers

Despite a chaotic finish to the regular season, including a late run by the Aaron Rodgers-led Packers and the ascension of the Panthers, the cream still rose to the top in the NFC Championship game.

The Niners and Seahawks have been the two best teams in the conference since Week 4 when San Francisco got hot and reeled off five straight wins.

Seattle, of course, has been atop everyone's power rankings all season and finished with the best record in the NFL — a 13-3 mark equal to the Broncos in the AFC.

MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

Going mobile

Maybe the two most exciting quarterbacks in the league, Russell Wilson and Colin Kaepernick, take center stage in this game. And neither was expected to be a star at the professional level.

The undersized Wilson wasn't drafted until the third round in 2012, while Kaepernick was taken one year earlier in the second round. But they now present the most dangerous combination of athleticism and throwing ability in the NFL.

Both were in the middle of the pack with 210 passing yards per game for Wilson and 200 per game for Kaepernick. But Wilson (539 yards per game) and Kaepernick (524 yards per game) finished second and third respectively in rushing yards for quarterbacks, behind only Cam Newton. Both defenses will need to watch out for the read-option attack, but also guard against old-fashioned QB scrambles. Kaepernick had a huge third-down scramble against the Packers to set up the game-winning field goal two weeks ago. We'll see if either team puts a spy on the opposing quarterback, which could open up passing yards downfield.

Stopping the Beast

Kaepernick and Wilson may be the bold-faced names in every ad for the game, but the best player might be Seattle running back Marshawn Lynch.

The man known as "Beast Mode" drives the Seattle offense, and will even more if Seattle receiver Percy Harvin (concussion) is out as expected. The 49ers are fourth in the NFL, allowing just 95.9 rushing yards per game, thanks to a tenacious defense led by Pro Bowl linebackers Patrick Willis, NaVorro Bowman and Ahmad Brooks, who came up with a huge stuff at the goal line on fourth down against Newton last week.

Lynch is a monster coming out of the Seattle backfield.
GETTY IMAGES

The Niners will need all defensive hands on deck to stop Lynch, who finished with 1,257 rushing yards and a career-high tying 12 touchdowns. The Seahawks finished fourth in the NFL in rushing.

Something to talk about

The Seahawks are in a similar position, trying to stop longtime stud running back Frank Gore. Because you can bet the Seahawks would like nothing more to shut down the ground game and force Kaepernick to throw the ball on the best secondary in the league. By all statistical measures the Seattle secondary is tops in the NFL — including trash talk. All Pro cornerback Richard Sherman leads the league in talk, but he also leads in interceptions, so don't think he can't back it up. The 49ers have two talented receivers in Anquan Boldin and Michael Crabtree, but Seattle allows an absurdly low 172 passing yards per game. Even a future Hall of Famer like Drew Brees threw for just 456 yards combined in two games against the Seahawks this season. It goes without saying Kaepernick is nowhere near the passer Brees is.

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning has had a quarterback rating of below 90 just once this season, the 34-31 OT loss to the Patriots in Week 12. / GETTY IMAGES

Destination NY: Brady-Manning meet once again

NFL playoffs. The AFC title game pits two old rivals against each other.

It had to be this way, didn't it?

The Patriots and Broncos are one game away from Super Bowl XLVIII, and are standing in each other's way. The two teams will battle it out on Sunday (3 p.m., CBS) for a trip to balmy MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. There are plenty of factors in play, and matchups to watch out for, but let's be honest — it always comes down to Tom Brady vs. Peyton Manning. This will be the 15th game between the two future Hall of Fame QBs, with Brady holding a commanding 10-4 record.

Here are three things to watch for Sunday:

1 Keep on running?
The Patriots' marquee always shows Brady, but over the last three games, the Patriots have turned into a run-first team. In that time, the Patriots have 75 pass attempts for 492 passing yards to 118 carries for 647 rushing yards. So, will that trend continue, or will the Pats pass more? Expect more balance. Denver's rushing defense was actually pretty good in the regular season, ranking seventh in yards allowed (101.6). They allowed 272.5 passing yards per game, 28th in NFL. Even so, the Broncos may dare the Pats to throw it more, as Brady doesn't exactly have the greatest weapons at his disposal this season. Without linebacker Von Miller and cornerback Chris Harris, though, both the Broncos' run defense and pass defense is suspect.

2 More artillery
Manning doesn't have Brady's problem. He's got plenty of stud receivers to choose from — Demaryius Thomas, Eric Decker, Wes Welker and tight end Julius Thomas. In fact, Julius Thomas didn't even play the last time these two teams met in Week 12. And the 6-foot-5, 250-pound tight end just so happens to have tied for the team lead in touchdowns (12) while reeling in 65 receptions for 788 yards.

3 No surprises here
How do you know that this is an evenly matched game? Because you won't be surprised, either way, as to which one ends up winning. Most people assumed the Broncos would be here thanks to their high-powered offense all season. But the Patriots have found ways to win time and time again when it seemed like the latest blow would be the fatal one.

Quoted

"It was nothing. I feel great. ... There are days where I've missed practice and you just deal with them."

Tom Brady, Patriots quarterback on missing practice Wednesday.

JAMES TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

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The last time Miami was in town, the Sixers got the upset in a 114-110 victory. / GETTY IMAGES

Sixers not the same team that beat Miami

NBA. The 76ers defeated the Heat on opening night, but a repeat performance could be a tall order.

Heating up in Philly

"Anytime you face a great team, you have to expect to get their best. I'm excited. Our crowd will be excited and we'll be pumped up."

Hollis Thomas on the Sixers' match up against the Heat Friday night.

Opening night must seem like eons ago. On Oct. 30, the 76ers defeated the two-time defending champion Miami Heat 114-110.

Since that night, the teams have gone in opposite directions.

The Heat still possess the second-best record in the Eastern Conference at 27-11. But they've dropped three games in a row with the latest defeat coming 114-97 at Washington. The Sixers finally snapped a four-game losing streak with a 95-92 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday.

Even with a three-game skid, the Heat are always going to be a benchmark type of game. The crowd will surely be stoked Friday when LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh visit the Wells Fargo Center.

"I think the energy is always there when the Heat come in," said Sixers forward Thaddeus Young. "We seem to rise to the occasion, which is good. We need to focus on doing that on a consistent basis, not just when these types of teams come in."

The Heat hadn't lost three straight games since the 2012 Eastern Conference Finals against the Boston Celtics. They hadn't dropped three straight in the regular season since Jan. 10-13, 2012.

Don't think for a second that the Heat will be vulnerable. They have too much talent, too much pride.

"They have Hall of Famers on their roster and we'll have to bring our A game," said Sixers forward Hollis Thompson. "We're coming off a win, so it's about keeping our momentum going in a positive direction."

ANDY JASNER
sports@metro.us

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Flyers were very close to adding veteran Weber

NHL. The Predators beat the Flyers in the Weber sweepstakes last offseason.

This is what might have been for the Flyers.

For the first time since the Nashville Predators foiled Paul Holmgren's best laid plans, (and all but bankrupted their franchise) and chose to match Philadelphia's outrageous (at least for hockey) 14-year, $110 million offer, Shea Weber came to town last night.

Predators defenseman Shea Weber / GETTY IMAGES

Considered by most to be among the premier defensemen in the game, the 28-year-old Weber is noted for a blistering shot from the point and exceptional puck handling ability. That's why Ed Snider & Co. were willing to virtually break the bank when he went on the market as a restricted free agent following the 2012 season.

The key word there is "restricted," meaning his team had the right to match the deal, which wasn't the case with former Pred defenseman Ryan Suter, whom the Flyers had previously pursued in vain. While Suter was free to sign anywhere, choosing the Minnesota Wild where he was joined by Zach Parise, Weber was at the mercy of his own team.

Ultimately they decided, whatever the cost, they couldn't afford to let Weber go, even though it would've brought them up to four first-round picks under the NHL's old compensation program. Ironically, under the terms of the new CBA, such deals will never happen again since there's a seven-year limit on free agent contracts.

The Flyers tried to downplay losing out on a three-time All Star who would've softened the blow of Chris Pronger's career-ending injury, even though he's technically still not retired. But coming up empty on all their moves left Holmgren scrambling to fill out his roster, especially after free agent defenseman Matt Carle left for Tampa Bay.

"In tendering an offer sheet to Shea Weber, we were trying to add a top defenseman entering the prime of his career," Holmgren said at the time. "With Nashville matching our offer, we wish Shea and the Predators all the best."

It hasn't quite worked out that way for the Preds, who were coming off a 104-point season and generating plenty of interest in Music City. Nashville failed to make the playoffs during the lockout shortened season, going an NHL third worst 16-23-9. They're currently 20-21-7, 11th in the West, eight points out of a playoff spot and winless in their last five road games.

JON MARKS
sports@metro.us

Predators' point

Berube praises Predators' top defender

Flyers head coach Craig Berube knows how big an asset Shea Weber can be to a team, particularly on an opposing club's attack.

"They have a good power play, especially with him," said Berube, whose club snapped a two-game losing streak in Buffalo Tuesday, 4-3, with three goals in the last 6:32.

"It's going to be a tough challenge," he continued, "But the best way to defend a power play is to stay out of the box."

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1074 - Leonardo, Martha • 1078 - Minto, Cecily • 1090 - Trouts, Robin • 1100- Felder, Lena • 1107- Hill, Khalim • 1119 - May, Jim
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3075 - Dawson, Ashley • 3103 - Partridge Comprehensive • 3134 - Johnson, Ethel • 3186 - Smith, Patricia • 3268 - Fosseo, Tiffany
3387 - Ortiz Gonzalez, Doris • 3392 - Casillas, Doris • 3424 - Jones, Christopher

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C358 - Salpizio, Joseph • D416 - manion jr, thomas • D428 - Baker, James • E522 - Porter, Charles • F636 - SHUSTERMAN, ILYA
F648 - cain, michael • G734 - johnson, betty • H836 - McKee, Ronald • J1246 - Granieri, Anthony
N1406 - Raphael, Alondra O1510 - Gardiner, James • O1556 - Gannon, Tiffany • P007 - Sama, Nicholas

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A129 - Wright, Harry • A135 - Peace, James • A240 - Willam, Daureen • A300 - MORRIS, DARNEECE • A406 - Pitts, Phillip
A413 - Kelly, Carl • A543 - Martin, Ramona • A609 - Dempster, Nordo • A639 - Johnson, Damon • A734 - Norwood, Brittany
A741 - Hughes, Jasmin • A872 - Spellar, Tara • B1305 - LEE, ROSALIND • B1517 - Gordijenko, Helen • B1702 - SMITH, ISIAH
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C2627 - WILLIS, CARLTON • C2709 - Blake, Kristin • C2918 - BIBU, DAN • C2930 - Jenkins, Kaliyma • C2937 - SPEARES, APRIL

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A016 - Roscoe, Kenneth • A076 - Barnes, William • B121 - Lopes, Katelyn • B123 - Wallace, Philip • B160 - Frazier, Orien
B188 - Mundy, Yavonda • B209 - Mason, Florence • C232 - Gerr III, Richard • C292 - Tanczak, Michelle
C340 - Oneil, Patrick • C349 - Knight, Teirsa • D386 - Kucharczyk, Andrew • D390 - Graves, Kevin
D404 - Waite, Nicole • D439 - Wilson, RaeAnne • D448 - Fagarino, Tracy

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A016 - Torres Ayala, Ana • A037 - Blakey, Renee • A046 - Brown, Althea • A096 - Riddick, Glendena
A117 - Steiger, Michael • A134 - Kapuscinski, Susan • B014 - Delvalle, Ana • B050 - Lewis, William
B080 - Carr, Leonard • B085 - Reid, Henry • B106 - Rivera, Carmen • B116 - JOHNSON, MELVIN
C021 - Jones,Shavon • D020 - Iglesia-Rodriguez, Loraine • E023 - Rivera, David

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A007 - Kravchenko, Rozaliya • C0099 - Rimer, Samantha • C0108 - JAMANOW, MIROSLAN • C0140 - Martinez, Jorge
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J0763 - Wylie, Toby • K0929 - Oyedelegraham, Josephine • L0954 - Maryanski, Tiffany • L0993 - SPIEWAK, STEVE
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A006 - Williams, Aaron • A011 - Mitchell, Lisa • B180 - Rowe Jr., Glenn
B216 - Schell, Darien • C241 - Murawski, Anthony • C243 - Scott, Radne
C288 - Lee, James • C360 - Hall, Nicole • C369 - Fulton, Tiffany • D422 - Clee, Robert
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0143 - Brooks, Angela • 0215 - Adams, Kitty • 0225 - Newsome, Peter • 0236 - Hill, Tramain • 0326 - Thompson, Sheila • 0348 - Kelly, Nicole
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Beth Dye M155
Alexander J Primavera IV R627
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Notices

Legal Notices

Notice DELAWARE VALLEY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NETWORKING EQUIPMENT, SERVERS, CABLING, AND VARIOUS TELCO/INTERNET SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that Delaware Valley Charter High School has released Request for Proposals (RFP's) for various networking equipment, servers, distance learning/video conferencing, cabling services and telecommunications, and internet access services. Details are provided within the formal posted RFP's, however the school will accept proposals that include compatible equipment/solutions. Interested respondents must have an E-rate SPIN number and adhere to the RFP response instructions. Complete responses must be received on or before 10 AM E.S.T. on February 6, 2014 addressed to the contact person that is given on the first page of the RFP's.
To obtain a copy of the RFPs visit www.intelafunds.net and go to "Bid Opportunities" or you may find RFP copies on the schools website at www.dvchs.net. Questions regarding this request can be sent to Remy Bibaud at remy@intelagentresources.com or by calling 412-231-1515.

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Vehicles Wanted

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Vehicles Wanted

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Cars

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Miscellaneous

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Business Opportunities

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